MTPE: Who Owns the Data?*

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Some of the crucial issues associated with national and international partnerships that Mission to Planet Earth (MTPE) must face in the coming years are in the areas of data policy, data rights and international agreements. Even with strictly domestic programs, questions will inevitably arise concerning who owns what data and what they can do with the data: sell, resell, distribute freely, etc. With the international flavor of MTPE, the complexity of the questions will be compounded. NASA's Commercial Remote Sensing Program at Stennis Space Center is doing a full analysis of these issues to identify regulatory frameworks, issues, opportunities, and barriers associated with:

- 1. The private sector providing science data to the government.
- 2. Commercial utility of Earth Observation System (EOS) data.
- 3. The private sector providing (leasing) payload space on commercial space platforms to the government.
- 4. The private sector leasing platform space from Government for private sector payloads.
- 5. Joint ventures with shared cost between private and government agencies for missions.
- 6. Using commercial off the shelf technology/capability for EOSDIS (Earth Observing System Data and Information System).

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